

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF MUSIC

# *A Festival of Glorias*

with

The University Symphony Chorus

The University Women's Chorus

Ann Cooper Gay, director

The Chamber Singers

Doreen Rao, conductor

Members of the University of Toronto Orchestra

Brass Quintet & Percussion



Saturday, March 20

8pm

MacMillan Theatre

Edward Johnson Building



## Programme

\*Gloria

Ruth Watson Henderson

(b. 1932)

University Womens Chorus, University Symphony Chorus Women  
Brass, Timpani and Percussion

\*Songs of the Great Land

David Bowser

(b. 1968)

Sharla Nafziger, soprano

Chris Ryan, bass

University of Toronto Chamber Singers

Members of the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra

### \*\*\*INTERMISSION\*\*\*

Gloria (from Concerto No. 6)

Dmytro Bortniansky

(1751-1825)

Oksana Rodak, conductor

University Symphony Chorus Students

\*\*Gloria

Imant Raminsh

(b. 1943)

Erika Tanner, soprano; Vilma Vitols, mezzo soprano

Mark McCallen, tenor; Gary Brown, bass

Leslie Dala, piano

\*BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO

Alma Raminsh\* from

The University of Toronto Chorus

\*World Premier

\*\*Toronto Premier



## Meet the Artists

Conductor **Doreen Rao** is recognized internationally as one of North America's leading authorities on music performance as music education. Since 1988, Dr. Rao has been Director of Choral Programmes at the University of Toronto where she teaches Advanced Choral Techniques in Music Education and conducts the University Symphony Chorus and Chamber Singers. She enjoys her position as Director Emerita of the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, an outstanding music performance program recognized as a model for music education and acclaimed for its award-winning recordings with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

Rao has appeared extensively as guest conductor and choral clinician throughout the world with recent conducting appearances in the UK, Germany, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Finland, and Namibia. She was the first woman to conduct the National Symphony Orchestra in Johannesburg, South Africa. In a recent review of her Lincoln Centre appearance with the University of Toronto Chamber Singers and Orchestra, writer Arthur Kaptainis remarked the Doreen Rao is the personification of the conductor-educator.

The University of Toronto Chamber Singers concluded its 1991-92 premiere season with triumphant performance of Mozart's C Major *Coronation Mass* at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. The Toronto Star praised the choir's Mozart concert as "an exhilarating sequence of choral and instrumental music" noting that "the response to their well-disciplined and full-hearted performance was overwhelming". This season, the Chamber Singers premiered John Burge's *The Fluteplayer* with Robert Aitken. Their performance will be broadcast on CJRT, 91.1 FM on Sunday, April 4 at 7 pm. Comprised of gifted undergraduate music students, the chamber choir is dedicated to the performance of culturally diverse and distinctive repertoire. The Chamber Singers first recording, *Chanter Avec Joie* is now available at the Faculty of Music Concert Office.

The University Symphony Chorus was established in 1988 to offer alumni and community musicians an opportunity to participate in the rich musical life of the University of Toronto. Under its founding director, Dr. Doreen Rao, the USC performs a rich variety of choral-orchestral repertoire ranging in style from traditional European works to contemporary Canadian compositions. The 1993-94 season will celebrate the MacMillan legacy, beginning with a revival of *England*, October 29 in MacMillan Theatre.

**Oksana Rodak**, conductor, is completing her graduate studies in Music Education. She has served as Assistant Conductor of the University Symphony Chorus since 1991. Recently Oksana was chosen to attend the

American Choral Directors Association Conducting Competition in San Antonio, Texas where she won the semi-finals.

**The University Women's Chorus** began in 1986 under the direction of Michael Coghlan. Ann Cooper Gay, director, is completing her fifth season as conductor of the UWC. The repertoire of the chorus spans a broad spectrum of treble voice music, from the works of Hildegard von Bingen to commissioned works by students and professors.

In 1990 and again in 1992 the University Women's Chorus won Second Prize in the Equal Voice Category of the national CBC Choral Competition, bringing pride to the Faculty of Music Choral Programme. The UWC performs regularly with outstanding student soloists and internationally known faculty members. In October 1992 the Women's Chorus performed on the Gala Concert for the OMEA convention in Toronto. In February 1993 they completed their first concert tour to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

### Programme Notes

**Gloria**

**Ruth Watson Henderson**

**Ruth Watson Henderson** enjoys a multi-faceted career as composer, teacher, pianist and church organist. Toronto born, Ms. Henderson studied at the Royal Conservatory and in New York at the Mannes College of Music. She was active for many years as a concert pianist, with frequent appearances on the CBC and as a soloist with many Canadian orchestras. Her compositions have won numerous awards and are published and performed internationally.

**Gloria** is written for treble voices, brass, timpani and percussion. It was commissioned by, and dedicated to Doreen Rao. The predominantly three-part vocal texture is reminiscent of Stravinsky's angularity and objectivity, the colour contrasts, varied dynamics and syncopated rhythms remind us of Poulenc and the use of brass with treble voices suggests the influence of Vivaldi, a composer who spent much of his career composing for women. In a new voice, vocal practices rooted in a cherished musical past are reconstituted by Ruth Watson Henderson to strike a powerful chord for the women of today.

**Songs of the Great Land**

**David Bowser**

**David Bowser** is a composition student at the Faculty of Music where he is continuing his studies following graduation last year. A graduate of the Etobicoke School of the Arts, David attended the Conservatoire de Tours in France to study flute and music theory. He has studied composition with Chan Ka Nin, Lothar Klein, Derek Holman and Harry Freedman and was selected by Doreen Rao as the Student-Composer-in-Residence for the Chamber Singers, 1992-93.



**Songs of the Great Land** is a setting of selected Native American poems compiled and translated by John Robert Colombo. David Bowser writes: "I have focused on the universality of these beautiful words, as they celebrate with passion and clarity a human relationship with Earth..." Written for chorus, soprano, baritone, and chamber orchestra, the works' six movements alternate fully scored choral movements with more sparsely textured arias for baritone and soprano. In the final movement, two poems are set simultaneously, one for the soloists and the other for double chorus.

### **Songs of the Great Land**

#### **I. The Sun - chorus**

Our father, the Sun!  
It is now time you were rising.  
I want to dance with you. (Blackfoot)

#### **II. Little Song - baritone**

And I think over again  
My small adventures  
When with a shore wind I drifted out  
In my kayak  
And thought I was in danger

My fears,  
Those small ones  
That I thought so big,  
For all the vital things  
I had to get and to reach.

And yet, there is only  
One great thing,  
The only thing:  
To live to see in huts and on journeys  
The great day that dawns,  
And the little light that fills the world.  
(Mackenzie Eskimo)

#### **VI. The Sky - soprano, baritone, chorus**

There is no place to be saved  
Except in the sky.  
(Blackfoot)

#### **III. The Great Sea - chorus**

The great sea  
Has set me adrift,  
It moves me as the weed in a great river,  
Earth and the great weather  
Move me,  
Have carried me away  
And move my inward parts with joy.  
(Iglulik)

#### **IV. My Love has Departed - soprano**

A loon  
I thought it was  
But it was  
My love's  
Splashing oar. (Ojibwa)

#### **V. The Mountains - chorus**

My heart is breaking with grief,  
When I look back and see  
The mountains I have left behind.  
(Tsimshian)

Around the sky  
I walk;  
A bird  
I accompany. (Ojibwa)

## Gloria

Dmytro Bortniansky

Dmytro Bortniansky was born in Ukraine. He studied with Baldassare Galuppi at St. Petersburg, then followed his master to Venice where he wrote three operas. He returned to Russia in 1779 where he lived and worked until his death in 1825. Bortniansky wrote a large amount of church music. The collected edition of his works was edited by Tchaikovsky and contains more than 100 vocal compositions, hymns, various choruses, sacred concertos, a Mass, three extant operas and some instrumental music.

**Gloria** is from Bortniansky's *Sacred Concerto No. 6*. The work was brought to my attention by Faculty of Music graduate student Oksana Rodak who studied at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Ukraine for one year following her graduation from the University of Toronto. The text, "Slavavo vishnikh Boku" is translated "Glory to God in the Highest."

## Gloria

Imant Raminsh

Imant Raminsh was born in 1943 in Latvia and came to Canada in 1948. He completed a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education at the University of Toronto in 1966 and continued his advanced studies in composition, violin and conducting at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. A recent dissertation on the composer points out that Imant Raminsh also studied biology at the University of Victoria, knowledge that serves him well as he leads tours of the Okanagan forest. Imant Raminsh has an extensive professional background as conductor, violinist, teacher and composer. The composer lives with his wife Becky and daughter Lisa in Vernon, British Columbia. Tonight's performance celebrates the birthday of Alma Raminsh, Imant's mother and first inspiration.

**Gloria** was commissioned by the West Coast Amateur Musicians Society in loving memory of their choral director Gaby Billette. The premiere performance was conducted by Gerald van Wyck at the Shawnigan Lake Music Camp in the summer of 1992. The work is set in five movements and scored for SATB soloist, mixed choir, and piano. The orchestration calls for double winds, brass, timpani, harp and strings. The piece begins with a shimmering introduction with the upper voices, gradually thickened by the addition of lower voices which leads to a joyful rhythmic "Gloria in excelsis Deo" figure. This gives way to an expansive "et in terra pax" section and the two ideas alternate to the end of the movement. The second movement "Laudamus te" is again a joyful piece with the initial idea introduced fugally and a middle dance-like section featuring soloists. The third movement "Domine Deus" is broad, majestic and hymn-like. The "Qui tollis" begins in a subdued manner with an alto solo and progresses from a mood of apprehension

to supreme confidence. The last movement begins chordally with the text "Quoniam tu solus sanctus" and moves into a rousing fugue on the words "Cum sancto Spiritu".





## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CHAMBER SINGERS

Leslie Dala, accompanist  
Janet Brenneman, assistant conductor

### Sopranos

Teri Dunn\*  
Stacey Fraser  
Christine Howlett  
Olga Mychajluk  
Nadine Odynski  
Marian Sjolander  
Erica Tanner

### Tenor

Daniel Auchincloss  
Mathew Baddeley\*  
Christopher Beall  
Robert Herrito  
Mark McCallen\*+  
Casey Prescott  
John Reusser

### Alto

Kristina Hallberg  
Cheryl Lake\*+  
Nanette Masson\*  
Tanya Ross  
Barbara Vermeulen  
Vilma Indra Vitols

### Bass

Tony Bergamin  
Gary Brown\*  
David DeJong  
Steve Gokool  
Brian Milligan  
James Westman

\* Section Leader

\* Committee Member

+ Student Manager/Librarian

Special thanks to Matthew Baddeley, assisting accompanist



## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SYMPHONY CHORUS

George Brough, accompanist

Oksana Rodak, assistant conductor (graduate)

Larissa Bachnivsky, assistant conductor (undergraduate)

### Student Members

Kirk Adsett  
Allen Alexander  
Mary Angastiniotis  
Joseph Argentino  
Larissa Bachnivsky  
Andrea Bellefeuille  
Joan Curry  
Judith DeHaney  
Adrian Fernandes  
Nadia Gugliotta  
Lisa Helferty  
Stephen Holloway  
Hilary Knox  
Jeffrey Koene  
Nanette Lockhart  
Chris Lovell  
Fabio Migotto  
Elizabeth McDonald  
Gregory Oh  
Jennifer Panasiuk  
Matthew Pines  
Joy Reeve  
Colin Roche  
Daniel Salvendy  
Marc Sottile  
Frank Szatmari  
Marc Toth  
Somchai Trakarnrung  
Veronica Truchly  
Esther Tse  
Yee Man Tsui  
Jennifer Tyrwhitt  
Beata Wozniak  
Stephen Yuen

### Student Manager/Librarian:

Nanette Lockhart  
Jennifer Tyrwhitt

### Community Members

Doris Adler  
Ross Aiken  
Fiona Anderson  
Lise Beaupré  
Karen Bender  
Frances Bianchi  
Elizabeth Block  
Cathy Cassell  
Brett Chapman  
Glenda Crawford  
Teresa Cummings  
Lori Dolloff  
Brian Dexter  
Al Elliott  
Liz Elliott  
Joaquin Espinoza  
Cindy Evans  
Sandra Gazetos  
Judy Ginou  
Gini Gray  
Neil Johnston  
Janet Hinton  
Mary Horman  
Janice Jones  
Angela Lin  
Marlene Marwah  
Carlos Noronha  
Alison Notkin  
Sophia Panousopoulos  
Jennifer Pierson  
Christine Pignan  
Constance Price  
Charles Price  
Charles Prince  
Madhu Sethi  
Audrey Stacey  
Margaret Stanfield  
Stephanie Taylor  
Jennie Usar  
Mimi Wong

## UNIVERSITY OF WOMEN'S CHORUS PERSONNEL

Sandra Alderton  
Caterina Allegratti  
Lysandra Almeida  
Geni Ambrozaitis  
Bryanna Beale  
Deborah Bradley  
Barbara Byczko  
Adrienne Chan  
Jasmine Chen  
Jennifer Clucas  
Marta DeLuca  
Luiiza Fernandez  
Rebecca Garrison  
Alice Hayward  
Lisa Helferty  
Helena Janik  
Kara Johnston  
Simone Jubas\*  
Anita Kwok  
Kristi Laird  
Janice Lam  
Mei Lee  
Lina Libak  
Heesook Lim  
Nicole Lobo  
Eva Mezo  
Gwen Norton  
Mary Piercey  
Ayelet Porzecanski  
Jessica Severin  
Pina Sgro  
Janet Stachow  
Marina Taneva  
Wern Ning Tang  
Anna Tiberio  
Kathy Tremills  
Holly Verhaegen  
Jane Warren  
Rebecca Whelan  
Anne Whyte  
Eppie Wong  
Karri Yano

\*Manager/Librarian



ORCHESTRA for Songs of the Great Land

Violin I

Mark Fewer

Jeremy Bell

Andrea Bray

Miki Tsunoda

Double Bass

Tom Artiss

Flute

Lesley Duff

Violin II

Corey Gemmell

Sara Davey

Nancy Case

Sheilanne Lindsay

Oboe

Jillian Howard

French Horn

Jane MacKay

Viola

Samuel Yeung

Karri Quan

Percussion

Richard Moore

Morris Palter

Cello

Mary-Katherine Finch

Piano

Leslie Dala

BRASS QUINTET for Ruth Watson Henderson's Gloria

Scott Harrison, trumpet

Andrew Chung, trumpet

Gina Patterson, horn

John Balsillie, trombone

Julie Bantin, trombone

PERCUSSION

Ryan Scott, timpani

Christine Huang, marimba

Special thanks to Stephen Chenette, conductor of the Concert Band

Lois Skillen

Helena Janik, assistant to Professor Rao



**\*\*Upcoming Events of Song\*\***

Monday, March 29

**The University Chorus**

James Pinhorn, conductor

Welcome Spring!

Programme includes: Pergolesi's *Magnificat*,

Telfer's *Three Songs of Love & Loneliness*

Selections from Rutter's *Fancies*

Dvorák's *Songs of Nature*

and Britten's *Five Flower Songs*

8 pm Victoria College Chapel \$5

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Monday, April 5

**University Women's Chorus**

Ann Cooper Gay, conductor

Hear the World Premier of Bruce Nicol's *Oh Holy Fire*

and other works from composers Galuppi,

Mendelssohn, Raminsh and Stensaas

8 pm Victoria College Chapel \$8/\$5

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MacMillan Theatre

Fred Peruzza, Director of Theatre Operations

Chris Brooks, Technical Assistant

James Fulton, Production Assistant



**In Tonight's Performance  
of  
David Bowser's  
Songs of the Great Land,  
The Soprano Soloist  
will be  
Rosalba Lamanna**